Project I.D. No. 185

NAME: UMEZAWA SAOHIKO DATE OF BIRTH: 1892 PLACE OF BIRTH: TOKYO
Age: 86 Sex: F Marital Status: W Education: _____

PRE-WAR:
Date of arrival in U.S.: 1910 Age: 18 M.S. Student Port of entry: SEATTLE
Occupation/s: 1. School girl 2. MILK FARMER'S WIFE 3. DAIRY FARMING
Place of residence: 1. SAN FRANCISCO 2. SACRAMENTO VALLEY 3. IMPERIAL VALLEY
4. MEXICO 5. SAN PEDRO
Religious affiliation: CHRISTIAN
Community organizations/activities: EVANGELICAL WORK

EVACUATION:
Name of assembly center: WAS ARRESTED 5/6 WKS IN JAIL (SAN DIEGO)
Name of relocation center: POSTON
Dispensation of property: HAD Names of bank/s: _____
Jobs held in camp: 1. HANDICRAFTS 2. _____
Jobs held outside of camp: _____
Left camp to go to: PRINCETON, N.J.

POST-WAR:
Date returned to West Coast: 1974
Address/es: 1. LOS ANGELES 2. _____
3. _____
Religious affiliation: _____
Activities: 1. HUSBAND: AGRICULTURE 2. College 3. _____
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: _____

Name of interviewer: TAKAHASHI Date: 2/12/78 Place: LOS ANGELES
Translator Mabel Hall

185

Umezawa, Sachiko
Feb.12, '78
Los Angeles, Ca.

T: Please tell me your name first.
U: My name is Umezawa, Sachiko, and my maiden name was Dendo.
Q: Where were you born?
A: I was born in Tokyo, and my parents were from Iwate Pref.
Q: When were you born?
A: In 1892.
Q: How old are you now?
A: I am 86 years old now. I came to America when I was 18 years old.
Q: Do you have memories of your childhood?
A: I was born in a special family,so I did not know anything about this world. I led such sheltered life that I went out only about twice a year.
Q: What did your father do?
A: He worked at the Imperial Household Ministry. I was brought up as a schoolmate of the children of the Imperial family, so I did not know anything about this world. When I was 16 years old I began to wonder why I came to this world. I wanted to find out my mission and wanted to get into a world of freedom,. In those days Rev. Shimanoki was teaching Christianity at Rikko-Kai 力行会 in Tokyo. When I learned about Christianity from him I was very happy. It was the time when Yamamuro Gunpei started Salvation Army and other Christians in Japan were very enthusiastic in preaching the gospel. I jumped right into it. When I asked my parents my father told me that I may become a Christian because of the freedom of worship. My mother said that she understood my feeling as she wanted to study and could not when she was young. Therefore, I left my home and stayed at a relative's house near the school. From there I went to Rikko-Kai and studied. When the roadside gospel started I went there carrying signs. In those days we were very enthusiastic. Rev.Shimanoki advocated the salvation of both the soul and the body. Therefore many self-supporting students gathered around him. They were lamp lighters, newspaper delivery men and milkmen. When the New Year came and they didn't have money to buy mochi (rice cakes) we pulled a big wagon and collected mochi. Then I made zoni and shiruko and let them have a feast. Rev. Shimanoki and Yamamuro Gumpei were good friends, so Yamamuro Gunpei came to our place very often. These two men went to greet the Salvation Army in Yokohama. They walked from Yokohama to Ueno as there was no transportation in those days. While they were walking Rev. Shimanoki asked Yamamuro Gumpei to take charge of the Salvation Army, and he would devote himself in leading the youth. Sometimes I helped the Salvation Army when they had the roadside mission.

U: I came to America in 1910 because I wanted to study Christianity in America which is the home of Christianity.
Q: Were you 18 then?
A: Yes, I had just turned 18. Rev. Inoue of Seattle was my sponsor as he was a friend of Rev. Shimanoki. I carried a red flag with a face of a bulldog which was the symbol of Rikko-Kai. The members of Rikko-Kai were all young men. We started a Reformed Church on the second floor of a house on Laguna Street in San Francisco with Rev. Junkichi Mori as our pastor. All the young men had strong faith so they would do anything. I joined the roadside gospel beating the drums. We distributed the monthly newspaper "Rikko" in China Town. I was staying at Mr. Abiko's, but I did not have enough time to beat the drums, so I left there. We wanted to buy a big church on Post Street and we needed the money, so everybody went to the country and worked for a year to make the money.
Q: What kind of a man was your father?
A: He was a very clear-headed man, and he had a skillful handwriting. I don't know what his job was, but I know he wrote official letters. I was appointed as a schoolmate of Princess Yasu, and I lived with her day and night. My older brother and younger brother were also appointed as schoolmates. I had to be a model for the princess. She didn't eat until I ate. What I hated most was that at 10'o'clock every morning the doctor came and gave us a check up. We had to drink cod liver oil, and I had to drink it first.
Q: What was the difference in ages?
A: I was about 5 years older. I was hired as a playmate of the children of the Imperial family. I had to live with them until they started going to school, so I led a very peculiar life.
Q: Then you didn't know your mother too well, didn't you?
A: I did not live with my mother. When my mother came to visit me they made me wear nice kimono and fixed my hair. I did not live with my parents, but grew up in the palace. I had a very different life from other people. That is why when I came to America and became free I didn't want to study. My father let me come to America as he thought that if I was educated in America, I could have become an official employee of the Imperial household. My father was related to Dr. Nitobe.
Q:Did you think your life was uncomfortable?
A: I thought that was the life until I started wondering about life.
Q: Were the children in the palace your playmates?
A: I was the playmate of the children.
Q: When did you start it?
A: I don't remember well, but I think I was around 10.
Q: Were you the playmate for 2 or 3 years?
A: May be longer.

Q: That you didn't know your parents well, didn't you?
A: I hardly knew my parents. I thought that was life. We could go out of the gate only about twice a year. I wanted to look around when we were on the carriage, but the attendant told us that we had to behave ourselves, so I could only cast a side glamce. Can't you imagine what an uncomfortable life I had? When I started wondering about life, I searched for Christianity. I don't know where I got hold of a Bible, but when I read the first line, "God made the Heaven and Earth" I knew that there is God. Since then I started reading the Bible, and found out that everything written in the Bible is true.
Q: What do you remember about your childhood?
A: I only remember that my life was uncomfortable. When I slept at night I could not stick my feet out of the quilt even in summer, so I tied my feet with string and slept stright. As I had such uncomfortable life, freedom was really womderful to me. I finally became ill because I did not have freedom.
Q: Do you have sad memories?
A: Nothing sad happened.
Q: Did you ever have a hard time?
A: No, because I was given everything. Even after I came to America, young men helped me when I worked as a schoolgirl. I received $1.50 to $2.50 as a schoolgirl.
Q: What about school?
A: I didn't go to school.
Q: Where did you learn to read and write?
A: I learned it while going to church.
Q: Where did you learn to read and write in Japan?
A: I was luckier than other children. Famous people came to teach writing, drawing and gym as tutors.
Q: Did you learn with other children?
A: Yes. When I became ill and came home I attended a grammar school for a while. Later, when we moved, I attended a commercial school. I had already learned what they taught me in that school, so I was not interested. One day I asked a teacher what she thought about me going to America. She had given up on me so she said it would be good for a person like me to go abroad.
Q: Did you go home when you were 16?
A: I think I was about 14 or 15.
Q: Did you feel awkward when you went home?
A: ~~They~~ My parents took good care of me as they knew the customary practice of the palace and understood what an uncomfortable life I led.

Q: Was your home more comfortable than the palace?
A: Of course. I didn't have to go to bed with my legs tied. My mother knew I had a hard time, so she took good care of me.
Q: You couldn't sleep on your side if your legs were tied, couln't you?
A: I had to sleep only on my back. That is why back of my head is flat.
Q: How did you get ready to come here?
A: My father did everything for me. He put me in the first class cabin of a ship.
Q: Was there any physical examination?
A: There wasn't any for the first class passengers, and we could go ashore first. The second and the third class passengers had to have "show money" in order to land. I didn't need it, so I loaned it to another Rikko-Kai member to help him.
Q: How was it on board the ship?
A: It was March, so the steward made the Doll Festival dinner for me. There were not many young girls in those days, so they were all nice to me, and I had a good trip. It took 18 days.
Q: Did you land at Seattle?
A: Yes. Rev.Inoue met me as he as my sponsor.
Q: How many members of Rikko-Kai came?
A: Two; Mr.Higuchi and myself. Mr. Higuchi came as a representative of Cha-Shokai. (Tea Trading Co.) Rev. Shimanoki founded the Tea Co. so that the members can make a living. Many people came here as members of the Tea Co.
Q: How long did you stay in Seattle?
A: Rev. Shimanoki asked me to visit young Rikko-Kai members who were working on the coast, so I did. Then I went to Portland where Rev. Shimanoki's niece was living. From Portland I took a train to San Francisco. I could not read English well, but I went to the dinning car and had dinners. I think I was bold. When the train arrived in Oakland 2 or 3 young men met me at the station. We took a ferry from Oakland to San Francisco. When we came to the church a policeman was waiting by the door because he thought I was a Communist. Reverend came out and told the police that I was not a Communist. I didn't know this until later. As I was the only girl among many young men I was very popular. They were all promising young men.
Q: Did you stay at Mrs. Abiko's?
A: Dr. Nitobe was my father's relation, and he helped me get my passport. Mr. Abiko was Dr. Nitobe's friend, so I was placed under the care of Mrs. Abiko. I stayed there for a while, but I ran away to work on the roadside mission.
Q: Didn't Mrs. Abiko say anything?
A: She gave up on me. She said she would teach me English if I wanted to learn. I was supposed to take care of her son Yasuo, but when I got through baby-sitting I used to go out.

After I ran away from the Abiko's I had to make a living, so I worked as a schoolgirl. At that time I didn't know anything about the housework, but the young men taught me kindly. At that time the church was built but there wasn't anybody to work at the church, so I helped with the Sunday school and taught Japanese. There were less than ten children at first. Gradually the picture brides started coming, and as they did not have any place to go we took care of them in the church. I went to the Immigration office and taught them the custom as it was new to them, and some of them washed their faces in the commode.

Q: Didn't those picture brides have husbands?

A: Those people never met each other before, but only exchanged pictures, so when the ship arrived they look for each other comparing with the pictures. When they finally met, the bride may not be as pretty as in the picture, and the husband may be suntanned by working outdoors. Many people were disappointed and dissatisfied, but there was nowhere to take their grievances, so the church acted as their consultant. I was still young, but I listened to them.

Q: What kind of thing did you talk about?

A: They were lonely and dissatisfied, so I invited them to the church and taught them music, songs and how to make artificial flowers. We talked while we were doing those things. At that time I organized a woman's club. I was still single but they called me "obasan".

Q:Where did you get the money from?

A: I was working as a schoolgirl. I could live on $5 a week.

Q: Did you do all the work while you were a schoolgirl?

A: Yes. A year later Dr. Nitobe came for a visit, and told me that my parents were worried about me as I was not going to school. He told me to decide while he was there whether to go to school in the East or to get married and have a family. I didn't have anybody to consult with, so I prayed. Then I remembered what my mother told me once. She said that if a woman has a child she can tell the child to bring her a glass of water when she became ill, but if she does not have a child she has to ask someone for a glass of water. That is why a woman has a mission to get married and have children. I told Dr. Nitobe that I had decided to get married, and gave up the idea of going to the East. Then I had to choose one among many young men, so I talked with many men and asked about their aspiration. When I talked with Umezawa I found out that his grandfather was a Christian and built a church in Gumma Prefecture in 1885. He left the Buddhist temple which he was managing, and led the whole village to Christianity. Umezawa came to America from this Christian village with an aspiration of building a church when he returned to the village. After he told me the story we were secretly engaged. His friends opposed to our marriage saying that he would be a hen-pecked husband. There were many young men I wnated to associate with, but I thought Umezawa had the most wholesome idea, and had good understanding towards Christianity. We went steady for a year, and then we got married. It was the first wedding at the Reformed Church.

with
Q: Did you talk other men about marriage ?
A: I told them that I decided to get married, and that I was going steady with Umezawa.
Q: Did you talk with different men before you decided to marry Mr. Umezawa?
A: Yes, of course. They are still my friends.
Q: Where did you talk such things? In cafes?
A: No, all in the park. We used to go to the Golden Gate Park after church to listen to the music. Sometimes we had picnics there and exchanged ideas. We did not associate as men and women but as brothers and sisters in a family.
Q: About how many young men were there?
A: I think there were about 60.
Q: Were you the only woman?
A: Yes.
Q: Do you remember what kind of problems the picture brides asked you for advice when you were working as "obasan" at the church?
A: They were married but not satisfied.
Q: Were there any women who wanted to run away?
A: No, there weren't any such women. People were glad the church welcomed anybody.
Q: Then you finally got married?
A: Yes, but it was not easy. Six young men got together and started a dairy farm in Sacramento Valley.
Q: How old was Mr. Umezawa then?
A: I was 18 and he was 4 years older than I.
Q: Did you start the dairy in Sacramento?
A: At Nicolaus which was on the bank of Sacramento River. We bought a dairy for sale, and started the business. We found out that we had to pay the tax, but we did not have the money, so the young men left one after another. Finally just two of us were left, so we abandoned it and came back to the Reformed Church in San Francisco.
Q: Did you sell the farm?
A: We abandoned it because we could not manage it. There was a flood that year. I sewed bags and men put sand in them to make a dyke, but I didn't sew the bags too well, so the bags broke and did not work well. I think it was at that time that I started having a labor pain. Umezawa acted as a midwife. I was not worried as I had watched cow have calves. Rev. Yoshida's wife was supposed to come and deliver the baby, but the baby came earlier, so my husband delivered the baby.
Q: Was the baby delivered safely?
A: Yes, he cut the umbilical cord and bathed the baby. We believed in God so we were not afraid.
After we came back to San Francisco we received a letter from my old friend Mr. Otoichi Kinoshita inviting us to come to Imperial Valley if we want to magage a dairy business. He said that Imperial Valley is a hot place, but the grass grow well, and they can harvest alfalfa eitht times a year instead of twice.

We had not given up the dairy business, so we went to Imperial Valley. When we got there Mr. Miyasawa of Rikko-Kai welcomed us. We are still church friends, and we help each other. I cooked and Umezawa worked there for a while. When we saved enough money to rent a house Mr. Miyakawa loaded a wagon with a hog, some rice and shoyu and took us to Heber in the central part of Imperial Valley. We did not have a bed, so I picked up a box spring and made a bed. In those days there was no electricity, and we didn't have a lamp. There were some chicken and cow, so we had enough to eat. Milkmen came and bought the milk, and we took the eggs to town and exchange for merchandise.

Q: When you had a dairy farm in Nicolaus did milkman come to pick up the milk?

A: Yes.

Q: How many cow did you have then?

A: Thirty. We had to have that many to get a can of milk. We separate the milk and get the cream, and fed the skim milk to hogs.

Q: Did you leave the cow there when you returned to San Francisco?

A: We sold them.

Q: Were there cow when you went to Imperial Valley?

A: We looked for a dairy farm for sale while we were working at Mr. Miyasawa's. When we found one in Heber we bought it and started a dairy farm. We slept only about 4 hours a day.

Q: What time did you get up?

A: We had to get up around 2 o'clock in the morning to get ready. We went in the field and chased the cow in. Then we milked the cow before the children went to school. My husband took care of hogs. I put the children on the cart and took them to school which was at a church. On Sundays I took the children to Sunday school.

Q: Did you manage the farm with just two of you, or did you hired any help?

A: After we got more cow we hired a Mexican to milk the cow. I did all the cooking and shopping.

Q: What was your job besides cooking?

A: In those days we didn't have everything like today. I had to sew children's clothes, knit their sweaters and bake bread, so I worked many times more than the women today do. But I was young then.

Q: What did you do after supper?

A: I had to knit, sew and kneed the bread to get ready for the next day. I think I worked real hard.

Q: About how many acres did you have in Imperial Valley?

A: We were leasing the land, but I do not remember how many acres.

Q: How many cow did you have?

A: I think we had around 50 cow.

Q: [illegible]?

Q: Did you sell the milk to milkmen?
A: He picked up the milk every day, and sent us a check once a week. But I could not wait for the check, so I used to go to El Centro with Mrs. Sasaki to pick up the check. We asked for the check saying that if we didn't pay the watchman of the water, he would disconnect the water. We were poor all the time.
Q: How many children do you have?
A: Five.
Q: One was born near Sacramento. Were the rest of them born in Imperial Valley?
A: Our oldest daughter was born in Nicolaus. Before the second one was born I went back to Japan. There was a woman who died after having a baby, but as there wasn't anyone to take care of the baby they wanted someone to take the baby to the grandmother in Japan..I took the baby and went back to Japan with my daughter, and had the baby at my parents' home.
Q: Was that your second baby?
A: Yes. The third one was a boy. He was born on George Washington's birthday, so the doctor put his name as George Washington Hiroshi Umezawa on his birth certificate.
Q: Wasn't Imperial Valley a hot place?
A: It was very hot. It didn't rain so we had to irrigate the fields. We didn't have any chairs in those days, so we used to sit on apple crates until Mr. Keinosuke Tanaka brought us two chairs. We did not have washing machines then, so we made fire under a wash tub and washed clothes in it. We experienced hardship that people today cannot imagine.

Then the anti-Japanese land law was made, and we could not lease or buy land unless we used some Niseis' names. My husband was a very righteous man, and he did not want to do anything unlawful. He said that there is big land across the boarder in Mexico, so we moved from Heber in Imperial Valley to Mexicali with about 500 cattle. Everything started going well for us. We had a land a mile square. We bought a car, built a creamary, installed a butter machine and a pasturizer, and became a regular dairy farm. Then a panic came, and we lost everything. We came back to America with only a truck. He was very downhearted, so I encouaged him by saying that it must have been God's will.

Q: How long did you stay in Imperial Valley?
A: I don't remember how long. Anyway, everybody was hit by panic. All the businesses went bankrupt. The church members did not have money for the offering so Rev. Kokubo cleaned the freight trains and raised chicken to support himself.
Q: Was it around 1930 at depression period?
A: I think so.

Q: What did you do after you came back from Mexico with only a truck?
A: We had to make a living from the next day, so I wrote to a friend in San Diego and asked her to send me some fish. I weighed them, labelled them, and let Umezawa peddle them. The business went well and we made some profit, I dried the left over fish and made dried fish. There were many Filippinos there, and they bought them.

Now we had to send our children to colleges, but we didn't have the money, so I asked God what to do. God said, "Don't you want your children to grow up to be fine people?" "That is why I am praying," I replied. "I don't understand why you put me in such needy circumstances when I am about to send them to schools". God told me that I am lucky because He is listening to my prayers. He said, "If your children were brought up in the same favorable circumstances as before they would not become fine people, but if you bring them up in needy circumstances with prayers, you wouldn't know what kind of happiness will follow."At that time I shouted, "I understood, Lord!" I realized then that I had been dreaming about the Old Testament, and was thinking only about having children and prospering. But Christ taught us that we have to bear the cross and follow Him. I said, "I understood, Lord. I have entered the New Testament age of Jesus, so please help me." I cannot forget about that time.

Ever since then every time I needed money for the church, God gave me ideas. On one Mother's Day there were no carnations around there, so I drew carnations on red and white ribbons, and sold them for 25¢ each to a women's group, I raised $100 and gave it to the church. We used to go to a summer school on Terminal Island every summer, and the pastor's and church members families lived together on the beach for a week and had a wonderful time. That year I did not have the money to go to the summer school. I was given an idea to make okoshi (rice cookies), and someone loaned me a bag of rice, so I made okoshi with puffed rice, and sent them to women's clubs.Everybody welcomes them, and I raised enough money to go to the summer school. When we went to the summer school everybody welcomed us. At that time Rev. Kikuchi lectured on the book of Job. I was moved by God's plan, and respected Job for not doubting God even after such suffereing. Since then I am not afraid of anything. My children understand my faith. The reward I am getting now is through my children. If I had brought up my children indulgently they would have known what kind of hardships the parents had, nor had the faith in God. I lost my oldest daughter, but her children have grown up to be fine people. I cannot keep track of my grandchildren, but I have 10 great grandchildren.

Q: Did you stay there till the war broke out?
A: Yes, but I went to Mexico to preach gospel.
Q: Were there many Japanese in Mexico?
A: Yes, there were. I taught a Japanese language school, also. I could not leave the church, so I taught Sunday School on Sundays. The reason why we went to San Diego was that there were no work in Imperial Valley. On the way back from the Summer School we stopped at the Reformed Church in Los Angeles. I told my husband to go back to Imperial Valley alone if he wanted to, but I was going to work on the coast as a cook, and take care of the children. At that time Mr. Kushino came and asked us to work in his ranch as he needed help in growing celery. We went to Chula Vista and Umezawa planted celery and I cooked for the laborers. There were some people from Imperial Valley working at the ranch, but we called some more people from Imperial Valley who needed work. We started a Sunday School in Chula Vista, but I was not satisfied with it, so I crossed the boarder to Mexico, and started a Sunday School there.

When the war broke out almost all the important people were taken into custody by F.B.I., but Umezawa was left behind. Instead, I was the first one to be arrested on the boarder as soon as the war broke out. The Immigration officer took me to the County jail.They asked me if I want America to win the war, or Japan to win the war, so I said I have been spreading gospel so that wouldn't be any war. I was put in a small room with only a bed and a toilet. I felt uncomfortable, so I prayed to God. Then I heard God's voice telling me that I should prepare for those who are coming after me. Then I became calm and went to sleep that night. The next morning many Italians and Germans were brought in. They were arrested when they were doing Christmas shopping. They were very angry for being arrested for no reason. We were told to wear jail uniform, but other people did not want to wear them. I told them that if we knew in our heart that we are innocent, it will be all right to put them on as overalls. They all listened to me.

One day a warden came in and said, "Rolled up!". We didn't know what he meant, but a Mexican who had been there long told us that we were going home, so we were getting ready to go home. Then we were put in a black cab of Immigration office. Everybody became excited, and some people fainted. We were wondering where they were taking us to, but found out that we were taken to the Immigration office in San Pedro. An immigration officer who knew me teased me saying, "Chula Vista Mama, did you drink too much tequila in Tijuana?"

All the Japanese women of 高野山 Koyasan church who entertained the Japanese Navy were in the Immigration office in San Pedro. They were all crying, so I comforted them and prayed with them. Then they became composed. Many fishermen from San Pedro were there also. I sent a message to a church on Terminal Island asking them to send us some Bible and hymnals. When they arrived we all got together and sang. Some Americans from Chula Vista church wrote a letter to a senator telling him that it is a shame for this country to keep me in jail, so release her as soon as possible. I received a letter from the senator saying that he will see to it that I will be released soon.

One day an Immigration officer asked me if I wanted to go home, so I said, "Of course I do." He told me to get ready. I came out of the jail and and got in a car.

Q: Did he bring you straight to your home?

A: We had a roadside vegetable and fruit store. When we came to the store he asked me if I wanted to get off there or go to my home. I told him it was fine there, and I got off the car. A customer drove me home from there. It was like a dream that I came home. My husband wasn't home from work yet. I was in jail for a month and 10 days. When I came home it was before evacuation, and we could not go over 5 miles. However, a white girl scout leader and I were given permission to go as far as we wanted to visit patients in the hospitals or people who needed help.

Q: What happened to your car when you were arrested?

A: It was at the Immigration office.

Q: Was your husband surprised to see you?

A: He was not worried about me. As I had an experience for being in jail, I hid a saw, hammer and pots and pan in the blanket when I evacuated. They were very useful while we were in the camp. I was thankful that my experience helped me.

Q: Which camp did you go to?

A: Poston. There my husband worked as a block manager, and I was in charge of the handcraft department teaching how to make flowers. We also started a business. There wasn't any flowers there, so the first thing I made was chrysanthemums out of grapefruit wrappers. Gradually we were organized, and we could get crepe paper. We made wreaths with branches of trees for funerals. We were quite busy then.

Q: How long did you stay at Poston?

A: Four years.

Q: Did you stay there till the war ended?

A: Umezawa left earlier to go to New York. An agricultural coolege in New York wanted someone who had experience in farming in California, and he was recommended for the job. He worked there until he retired at 70.

Q: Did you go there with him?
A: No, I stayed with my daughter who had a florist in New Jersey, and took care of my grandchildren. In those days there were many Japanese students in Princeton, so on New Years Day I made dinner for them and entertained them. Among them were a couple of Nobel prize winners. Dr. Kochi who discovered Penicillin used to come to our house every weekend as he was homesick. I received a letter from hin yesterday telling me that he discovered a medicine to cure cancer.
QHow long did you live in New Jersey?
A: About 4 years. After the war we went back to Japan to visit my husband's father as we received a telegram that he was seriously ill. When we went back we found out that three generations have passed, and there was no church, and the young men were smoking and drinking. Deploring the sad condition, we decided to go back to Japan and revive the Christianity in the village. Fortunately his father's house, land and mulberry trees were still there, so we rebuilt the house and started a church. We hired a graduate from the Farm Mission School as a pastor. He was an ambitious man and did not want to work in the country, so he resigned. For a while pastors from different churches in Gumma Prefectures came and helped our church. Finally a pastor fom a church in Numata agreed to take care of two churches, and he is still continuing to do so. There are not many members, but the women's association meets once a month.
Q: How long were you in Japan?
A: All together ten years.
Q: When did you come back here?
A: About four years ago. Umezawa died three years ago.
Q: In Japan?
A: No, while he was visiting his daughter in New Jersey. I could not walk till then, but that night I went upstairs and changed his clothes. He was taken to a hospital by an ambulance but he remained unconscious for three month until he died. I found out later that it took three months to transfer his property and church to his cousin. There is a reason for everything God does. That is why I am not worried about anything. I am the happiest person.
T: I want to hear some more of your story but I have to go now. Thank you very much. Let's cntinue it next time.